

Elizabeth Doyle, and Francis Brandon Arant.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 88 World War II veterans from every region of Louisiana who are traveling to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable service members.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, is sponsoring this Saturday's trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the first of four flights Louisiana HonorAir will make to Washington, DC, this fall.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 33,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1913. Two of these veterans began their service in the Louisiana National Guard as early as 1936, and were activated for Federal service in 1941.

This group served in every branch of the military, including 29 in the U.S. Army, 14 in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 23 in the U.S. Navy, 8 in the U.S. Marine Corps, 2 in the U.S. Merchant Marines, one in the U.S. Coast Guard and one in the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Naval Reserve. Our heroes served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of Huertgen Forest, and the battles of Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome, Anzio, Po Valley and North Apennines. They served in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific Theater. One was wounded in Germany, and another was captured as a prisoner of war.

Many of these veterans earned Purple Hearts, including one with three Battle Stars. One of our veterans went on to serve in both Korea and Vietnam, retiring in 1967.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 88 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, who we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROTH

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments to acknowledge the life and work of a very ordinary, yet extraordinary, American named Bob Roth of Bristow, VA. Bob died of cancer earlier this year, at the young age of 44, leaving behind a wife of 19 years and five young children. His was one of far too many vibrant young lives cut short by this terrible disease. As was his way in life, Bob fought cancer to the very end attacking the disease as ferociously as it attacked him.

Recent developments in the FBI anthrax case had brought the case back into the media in the last month. I want to pause and recognize that the recent breaks in the case were built upon the hard work of Special Agent Roth and his team. Many of us remember what it was like on Capitol Hill in October of 2001 when an anthrax-laced letter appeared in Senator Daschle's office and another in Senator LEAHY's office. Spores were found at the U.S. Supreme Court, and postal workers who handled the letters died from inhalation. No one felt entirely safe from one of the most deadly germs known to man.

The FBI was immediately on the case, and a September 2003 Washington Post article explained their approach in the following manner:

To run the anthrax case day to day, Assistant FBI director Van Harp turned to veteran FBI agent Bob Roth whose meticulous style mirrored his own. Roth sometimes referred to himself as a cops-and-robbers kind of guy, best suited to pursuing the mobsters, embezzlers and kidnappers who had always been the FBI's bread and butter. But this case posed an entirely new set of challenges, and Roth was willing to try almost anything to solve it. . . . the FBI's frustrations with the case were palpable. At one meeting at the Washington field office, agents talked candidly about the toll the long hours were exacting on their families. Roth vented, too, groaning to no one in particular, "Get me out of this."

But he never asked to get out. Long after the media lost interest, Agent Roth worked tirelessly. As the FBI slogged through one of the most complicated, high-profile cases it ever faced, Agent Bob Roth served his country as a pioneer in the efforts to fight domestic terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. He literally risked his life investigating scenes and evidence from the anthrax case. He was later honored by being promoted to Assistant Section Chief of the Bureau's newly created Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. It was a role he had little time to address because he spent the last year of his life fighting against his own personal WMD: multiple myeloma, an aggressive bone cancer.

Bob was an exemplary father, devoted husband, committed Christian, community leader, and Government servant. He served 16 years for the FBI and was highly commended and decorated for his exceptional life and unfailing integrity, for his leadership and excellence in his profession for his inspiring example as a devoted husband and loving father to five beautiful children for his character and long service to our country, and for his pioneering efforts in fighting against weapons of mass destruction.

I ask that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect the impressive contributions made by Special Agent Robert Roth to his country.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY KEATING

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I celebrate the life of Mary Keating, who, until she passed away last October, was a proud resident of the city and great State of New York for nearly 78 years. Mary first came to America at the young age of 17, far from her home and her family in Derry, Kilshanny, County Clare, Ireland. Not long after she arrived, she met and married Martin Keating, who also hailed from County Clare. She and Martin shared many passions, most notably their love for their family, their friends, and their deep, abiding faith in God. While neither of them were musicians, they relished the Irish country sets of their native Clare and carried them with them to this country, eventually to meet and dance them on the Rockaway Beach boardwalks, which as far as they were concerned was simply the last parish in Clare. As one of her youngest grandchildren, Ronan, observed, if you visited their home you would find a layer of dust on the top of the knob on their radio because it had not been moved from its resting spot on the Irish music station in decades.

Music was not the only way that Mary celebrated her Irish heritage. It also could be found in her love to entertain friends and family. It was well known in their neighborhood and beyond that there was always an extra spot at the dinner table in the Keating home. As Mary would say, "what is one extra potato in the pot?" One could never visit her home without enjoying at least a cup of tea and an assortment of food. Three generations of Keatings grew up savoring her specialties such Irish soda bread, turnips, and leg of lamb. Much to their chagrin, her daughters and granddaughters have never been able to make a soda bread half as delicious as Mary's, simply because the "recipe" was all done by taste and memory. As her granddaughter Kristin noted, the only one of Mary's dishes her grandchildren will not miss is her "lumpy" mashed potatoes, especially since Martin was a firm believer in the notion that children should finish everything they are served.

Mary will be remembered by all who knew her as a strong and caring woman